

ABSTRACT

[0042] A system for peer-to-peer access to a collection of data is disclosed, comprising a musicbox operatively connected to a persistent data store, the persistent data store containing a plurality of data files of a predetermined data format, the data files further secured from unauthorized access; a data communication interface, operatively connected to the computer; and software executing in the computer, the software capable of identifying other systems executing the software; allowing peer-to-peer sharing of the data files with the identified other systems, the sharing restricted to the identified other systems; and allowing users of the software to manipulate the data files. In an exemplary embodiment, a plurality of data files are preloaded onto the persistent data store from a larger set of data files; access of the system to a peer-to-peer network of other like systems is initialized and the other systems available on the peer-to-peer network identified; the peer-to-peer network identifies the data files and their locations; and a user is allowed, with appropriate access rights, to catalog the data files available on the identified systems and optionally select a data file from the plurality of data files identified on the peer-to-peer network such as for sampling or downloading.